



## MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

December 7, 2022

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512  
Game Room  
&  
Zoom Webinar

<https://zoom.us/j/92347908306?pwd=K2k5UGdYSEVXVGNuRGFPZ3pub2kwQT09>

- 1. Call To Order [Non-Action Item]** - Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair- Hawah Ahmad.
- 2. Roll Call [Non-Action Item]** – Hawah Ahmad asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present via in person and through Zoom meeting.

### WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

#### PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Martha Lavin  
Thuy Tran  
Mavis Kay Bonzer  
Charles Mark Neumann  
Jane Baudelaire

Pamela Roberts  
Mary Ann McCauley  
Hawah Ahmad  
Casey Reed

#### ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)

\*Kodandaraman  
Venkataraman

### WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Steve McBride  
Abby Willrich  
Ryan Crane

Herbert Kaplan (DA)  
Sandra Vasquez  
Amber Howell

### ADVISOR PRESENT

Dr. Larry Weiss  
Donna Clontz

### ADVISOR (ABSENT)

Connie McMullen  
Victoria Edmondson

### 3. Public Comment [Non-Action Item] –

Donna Clontz states that her and seniors would like to build up attendance at various senior centers for the afternoon time since activities are minimal in the afternoon.

### 4. Member Announcements [Non-Action Item] –

Charles Mark Neumann states he has attended various CAB meetings and the Washoe County brochure is really liked. He was asked if there was going to be a bus tour to places like Virginia

City. Also, he spoke with the Sheriff's department and seniors can order a catalytic converter kit over the phone.

Hawah stated today Sparks Senior Center had their grand reopening and Donna's group also will have an event on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Reno, Sparks and Washoe County will share a table at the December 14<sup>th</sup> event.

**5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on December 7, 2022 [For Possible Action]**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Martha Lavin and seconded by Casey Reed. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on November 2, 2022 [For Possible Action]**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Neumann and seconded by Mary Ann McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on September 7, 2022 [For Possible Action]**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Pam Roberts and seconded by Thuy Tran. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Presentation regarding Five Star Premier Residences facility for independent and assisted living for seniors [Non-Action Item] – Lisa Arch**

Lisa Arch stated she is the director of sales and marketing for Five Star Premier, located midtown. They provide a positive supportive environment for seniors, which is very important to seniors. They have an extensive activity calendar which includes exercise, nutrition, hydration, and entertainment for the evening, musical events as well. They have officially unmasked and are accepting people coming in from the outside. They have a lot of things they have to offer, they are fortunate to have people that have moved from out of state and brought in their expertise. In regard to cost, they have designed a system where they only have one bill that includes everything, including internet, transportation, and security. There is a nonrefundable community fee of \$3000. They do a yearly lease, but they can negotiate depending on the situation. Depending on the unit, the cost can be between \$3,400 up to close to \$6,000. They are backed to the golf course and have mountain views. If anyone has questions, they can contact her at Five Star Premier.

Mary Ann McCauley asked how they engage seniors; Lisa stated they ask open ended questions to find out what it is they need. Also, regarding knowing what the seniors want/need to do, they have senior committees, such as a welcoming committee. These committees are the spokesmen for the seniors, it is a team effort to find what seniors like to do. They are also always looking for new things they would like to potentially do.

**9. Update and report on Washoe County Senior Services Daybreak Program and Homemaker Program [Non-Action Item] - Steve McBride, Division Director**

Steve stated that unfortunately they haven't made progress to the Daybreak program area. They are hopeful that the new year will bring in a new opportunity.

Amber Howell stated that it is difficult and when looking at gaining providers, it's tough because the reimbursement is about 50% less. The Medicaid rates are very underfunded, and it is something that they will be looking at in the next legislative session. It's not just trying to find

providers, but also maintaining the providers. In this area, they have little to no control over Medicaid rates. Also, it's important to know that the state decided to end their homemaker program and that made it so that the county's homemaker program doubled on the waitlist. Hawah stated anything they can do, to please let them know including advocating and going to the legislature. Pam stated it would be good to add to the agenda an action item regarding advocacy. Kay Bonzer asked how often the Daybreak program has closed due to short staffing, Abby stated that for December, they will be closed 6 days. For the most part, they have been able to keep it open. They are required to have a nurse on staff, they have 2 on staff for best practice. Mark stated they have Senior Fest and they should request to fund the program through their assembly people. Donna stated she has a list of representatives they can contact. Amber stated they have a legislative liaison that will keep track of bills and the information can be provided to the Board. Larry Weiss asked if the federal money received was used for the homemaker program, Amber stated that the worry on using federal money is that it would not be sustainable, they are looking at doing it though county funding so that it is sustainable.

**10. Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee [Non-Action Item] – Donald Abbott**

Donald Abbott stated that they had hot chocolate and Crumbl cookies for the Sparks reopening. They saw a lot of new faces. Their next meeting is February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9am at Sparks City Hall and they have openings for Alternate seats.

**11. Update on Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee [Non-Action Item] – Paco Lachoy**

Not present.

**12. Report and update on letter to Citizen Advisory Boards (CABs) asking for reports on senior issues in unincorporated Washoe County [Non-Action Item]**

Hawah states they need to put the letter in letterhead and then they will send it out, but emails have been sent out. Mark stated he attended the Verdi CAB, Commissioner Hill was there and it looks like they are interested in the housing brochure and the Friendly Visitor Call; it seems to be what they are mostly interested in. Pam stated she attended the Warm Springs CAB and transportation is an issue for the people that live out there, she thought RTC did go out that far out, but that is not the case. Hawah stated that RTC could have a potential strike, but the hope is that it won't happen again. Also, it would be good to make relationships with CAB members and share information since not everyone checks their email. Amber Howell stated that Chair Hartung made a donation of bus passes to the seniors. Also, if she could have a list of sites that need computers, it may be something she can do. It would also be good to look into having something like computer classes, so seniors have the resource. Abby stated they have looked into it, but they will survey again since it seems people are interested in getting computers again. Mark stated people are not interested in computers because they don't know how to use it, but if they were asked if they were taught how to use it, would they be interested, then they would say yes. Donna stated there are resources in the library that they can mix in with the idea.

**13. Report and update on Senior Resources Information Fair [Non-Action Item]**

Donna stated the resource fairs are going really well and the next one is December 14<sup>th</sup> at Sparks Library. They will have one for January and February at the Northwest Library. People are loving the information events and they will be looking at doing it at other places. Also the mobile clinic will be at the next 3 fairs where people can go and get shots, mostly covid shots.

**14. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding setting a Senior Advisory Board concurrent meeting with Sparks Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee [For Possible Action]**

Hawah stated if they should do a February meeting and just ask Reno if they want to join. Andrea Pelto states yes, that would be good. Hawah stated they should only focus on Older American Month in February. Abby stated mid-March is the deadline for turning in events for Older American Month. Andrea stated that Reno was concerned that too many events were scheduled for the same date in the last Older American Month. Hawah asked if Google calendars could be used, Ryan Crane stated if it's efficient, yes. Hawah also stated it would be good to let people know that their event date may need to change if there are too many things going on at the same time. Abby stated it would be better to have communication between the boards regarding the dates and one to two events per day is a good practice. Andrea stated that google calendar is a good idea because it would be giving others an idea of what time and dates are taken. Donna asked if last year's booklet could be sent out so people have an idea of what is expected. For February meeting, Hawah stated they should do it at Sparks with Older American Month as the item.

**15. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding expanding the Friendly Visitor Call Program to seniors in Washoe County [For Possible Action]**

Hawah asked if Donna has the list of seniors who are getting calls, Donna stated yes. Donna stated the easiest thing to do is to get the senior's information and send it to Abby or Reno staff so they get on the list. She is more than glad to extend it and reminded people it is just a friendly visitor call, not a social worker call. Abby stated if anyone is interested, there is a training for it and the caller goes through a background check and application process.

**16. Advisory Board Members' announcements, reports and updates to include requests for information or topics for future agendas [Non-Action Item]. (No discussion among Advisory Board Members will take place on this item.)**

Homemaker program  
Applicant appointments  
Request if members that are traditionally on zoom can attend in person

**17. Public comment [Non-Action Item] –**

Andrea Pelto reminded people that The Grinch will be at the Reno Senior Center on Friday. Mark Neumann stated he was running for General Improvement and he was awarded the spot.

**18. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]**

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm.